

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 4-18 are pending. By this Amendment, Claims 2-3 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer; Claims 1 and 4-5 are amended; and Claims 17-18 are added.

Claim 1 is amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of Claims 2 and 3. Claims 4-6 are amended only to change dependency from Claim 1 and not for any reason related to patentability. Claim 6 is amended to correct a minor informality therein and not for any reason related to patentability.

Applicant respectfully submits no new material is presented herein.

Allowed/Allowable Claims

Applicant respectfully acknowledges and appreciates the indication by the Examiner that Claims 11-16 are allowed and that Claims 3 and 6, although objected to for being dependent upon a rejected base claim, would be in condition for allowance if rewritten in independent form, including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 3 depends from Claim 2, which depends from Claim 1. Claim 1 is amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of Claims 2 and 3, as indicated in the Office Action on page 4, lines 18-20. Claims 4 and 5 are amended to depend from Claim 1. Claims 6-10 depend directly or indirectly from Claim 1. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1 and 4-10 are now in condition for allowance.

New Claim 17 is Claim 6 rewritten into independent form. New Claim 18 depends from Claim 17 and corresponds to Claim 7. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 17-18 are in condition for allowance.

Entry of Response Being Proper

Entry of this Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration on the part of the Examiner; (c) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the Office Action; (d) do not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and (e) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. Entry of the Amendment is thus respectfully requested.

Claims Rejected—35 U.S.C. § 102 and 103

Claims 1, 2, and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,979,067 to Waters ("Waters"). Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Waters.

For the reasons explained above, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1 and 4-10 are in condition for allowance. Consequently, Applicant submits that the rejections are rendered moot. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application, withdrawal of the outstanding rejections, allowance of Claims 1 and 4-18, and the prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowability are respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300, **referencing docket number 026328-00006**.

Respectfully submitted,
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Enclosures: Petition for Extension of Time
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